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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who rules the raging of the sea, we exalt Your Name because, in spite of the chaos and confusion in our world, You remain the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We will continue to praise You for as long as You permit us to borrow our heartbeats from You. Lord, use our law-makers to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Lift up the heads of all who place their trust in You.

And, Lord, we praise You for the life and legacy of Dr. Charles Stanley, who was in touch with You, enabling him to touch the lives of millions.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the issue of avoiding default, yesterday, Speaker MCCARTHY made it clear how unprepared Republicans in the House are to resolve our Nation's default crisis.

With a default approaching, Speaker MCCARTHY yesterday capitulated to the MAGA right and rolled out a partisan wish list masquerading as legislation. This MAGA wish list has no chance of moving forward in the Senate, and it doesn't move us any closer than we were yesterday to avoiding default.

To quote one hard-right conservative House Republican:

The leadership just picked up the House Freedom Caucus plan and helped us convert it into the legislative text.

That shows you how hard right this wish list truly is.

Again, let me quote one of the most well-known hard-right conservatives in the House:

The leadership just picked up the House Freedom Caucus plan and helped us convert it into the legislative text.

Wow. That is what Leader MCCARTHY is doing—maybe not as a surprise after what happened with the many votes he needed to get elected.

Americans who look at this package will overwhelmingly agree: The biggest losers in Speaker MCCARTHY's agenda are parents, kids, law enforcement, small businesses, and countless others who work hard every single day to make ends meet.

Do you want to talk about reducing debt? Wall Street billionaires are not asked to pay even a nickel under MCCARTHY's bill. Hurt the parents. Hurt the kids. Hurt law enforcement. Hurt small businesses, but leave the billionaires alone. That is what MCCARTHY is doing over there in the House.

Let me say that again. The biggest losers in Speaker MCCARTHY's blueprint are parents, kids, law enforcement, small businesses, and countless others who work hard every single day to make ends meet. Wall Street billionaires are not being asked to pay a nickel. Americans will not accept this transparently unfair and draconian package.

If these MAGA cuts become law, it will decimate everything ranging from food nutrition programs to funding for mental health, opioid addiction, and childcare. Parents who need help buying groceries and baby formulas will see their out-of-pocket costs go up. It is so cruel and heartless that parents who get \$6 a person a day to feed their families would see it disappear. Can you imagine? Can you imagine?

If this MAGA wish list becomes law, untold thousands of clean energy and advanced manufacturing jobs could leave our shores and go to China.

This MAGA wish list will also make Americans less safe by slashing funding for the Department of Justice by billions of dollars and eliminating tens of thousands of law enforcement positions nationwide. We hear a lot of talk from the other side about helping the police.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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